

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 272377
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY S/S:TARNOFF

APPROVED BY S/S:TARNOFF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 272377

NODIS

CHEROKEE ONLY FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 16225 ACTION STATE NOV 14.

QUOTE S E C R E T BRUSSELS 16225

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

REF: STATE 272046

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET WAS OUT OF HIS OFFICE DURING WORKING HOURS TODAY, SO THE DCM CALLED ON HIS CHEF DE CABINET (CAHEN) AND DELIVERED OUR PROPOSAL AS PER REFTEL.

2. IN DCM'S PRESENCE CAHEN INFORMED SIMONET BY TELEPHONE. SIMONET INSTRUCTED HIM TO CHECK THE PALACE AND THE PRIME MINISTER FORTHWITH. (SIMONET HIMSELF IS SCHEDULED TO BE OUT OF BELGIUM AT THE PROPOSED TIME, BUT CAHEN IS

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CONFIDENT HE COULD MAKE IT BACK, IF NECESSARY.)

3. CAHEN UNDERTOOK TO GIVE US A REPLY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, IF POSSIBLE, OTHERWISE WEDNESDAY CERTAINLY. NOVEMBER 15 HAPPENS TO BE THE FETE DU ROI, THE ANNUAL OBEISANCE TO THE MONARCH, AND BAUDOUIN IS HEAVILY ENGAGED TODAY AND TOMORROW.

4. APART FROM THE PREDICTABLE OBSERVATION THAT WE HAD CHOSEN A "DIFFICULT" DATE, CAHEN WARNED THAT THE KING COULD WELL BE COMMITTED TO BE ABSENT FROM BELGIUM AT THE TIME. HE ALSO WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO "ASSEMBLE A QUORUM" AT EC AND NATO THAT WEEK. DCM SAID THE FIRST THING WE HAD TO ESTABLISH WAS WHETHER THE PROPOSED DATES WERE ACCEPTABLE TO THE KING AND THE GOB. CAHEN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD.

COMMENT: ON THE HISTORICAL RECORD THE KING IS MORE LIKELY THAN NOT TO HAVE MADE PLANS TO BE ABSENT FROM BELGIUM OVER THE NEW YEAR. APROPOS OF CAHEN'S COMMENT ON EC AND NATO, WE NOTE THAT DECEMBER 30 AND JANUARY 2 HAVE BEEN DECLARED HOLIDAYS FOR THE NATO STAFF - THE FORMER IN COMPENSATION FOR THE ARMISTICE DAY HOLIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, WHEN NATO STAYED OPEN. EC STANDS DOWN TO A DUTY-OFFICER LEVEL OF OPERATIONS FROM BEFORE CHRISTMAS UNTIL JANUARY 3 WITH THE EC COMMISSIONERS NORMALLY ABSENT FROM BRUSSELS. CHAMBERS UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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